

1. (Amended) A method of servicing an inkjet printer printhead comprising
[the steps of]:

[providing a wiper mounted for movement with respect to the inkjet printer printhead
in wiping contact therewith to remove unwanted accumulation from the printhead;

providing a source of printhead servicing fluid;

providing another inkjet printhead as a non-contact servicing fluid applicator and
orienting said applicator to jet servicing fluid in a reproducible quantity onto a surface of the
printhead of said inkjet printer and the wiper;

transporting servicing fluid from said source to said applicator;]

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jetting a reproducible quantity of servicing fluid from [said] an inkjet printhead used
as a servicing fluid applicator through atmosphere onto at least one of the printhead of said
inkjet printer and [the] a printhead wiper; [and]

[wiping] contacting the printhead of the inkjet printer [by moving] with the wiper
during relative movement of the wiper [with respect to] and the printhead [of the inkjet printer]
to remove unwanted accumulation therefrom;

[vaporizing said servicing fluid to jet ejectingly said fluid from said applicator
printhead; and

said servicing fluid being projected from said applicator printhead onto the printhead
and said wiper; and];

counting drops of servicing fluid ejected from said applicator [head]; and

controlling the amount of servicing fluid applied to the printhead based on the counted

number of drops.

2. (Amended) The method of claim 1, further comprising [the steps of]:
maintaining [said] a source of servicing fluid in an uncontaminated state by preventing contact between said source of servicing fluid and said wiper.

3. (Twice Amended) A method of [servicing] applying servicing fluid to a printhead of an inkjet [printer] printing mechanism comprising [the steps of]:

[providing a wiper mounted for movement with respect to the printhead to facilitate removing unwanted accumulations from the printhead;

providing a source of printhead servicing fluid;

providing a non-contact applicator and orienting said applicator to project servicing fluid in a reproducible quantity onto a surface of at least one element selected from a group consisting of tow elements, the printhead and the wiper through surrounding atmosphere;]

transporting servicing fluid from [said] a source to [said] a non-contact applicator comprising a resilient spring;

projecting the servicing fluid through [the] atmosphere from said spring onto [said] at least one [element] of said printhead and a printhead wiper; and

wiping the printhead [by moving the wiper with respect to the] during relative movement of said wiper and printhead to remove unwanted accumulations from the printhead, [said non-contact applicator comprising a spring; and] said servicing fluid being projected by[:] deforming said applicator spring[;] and releasing said applicator spring to project servicing fluid from said spring onto said printhead by rebound of said spring.

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C 4. (Twice Amended) A system for servicing an inkjet printer having a printhead reciprocally moved by a carriage and a wiper positioned to move with respect to the printhead in wiping contact therewith to remove unwanted accumulations, comprising:

a source of printhead servicing fluid;

a servicing fluid applicator for projecting servicing fluid through [the] atmosphere onto at least one of the printhead and wiper; and

means for transferring servicing fluid from said source of servicing fluid to said applicator, wherein said applicator comprises an elastically deformable spring for impelling [treatment] servicing fluid toward at least one of the printhead and wiper.

3/ 5. (Twice Amended) A [system] method according to claim [4] 15, wherein said [applicator] ~~another printhead~~ **second print head** is oriented to project a precisely controllable amount of servicing fluid through atmosphere onto a selected area on ~~the printhead of said inkjet~~ **the first print head** [printer and said wiper] ~~printing mechanism~~; and [wherein

said means for transferring servicing fluid includes:

C **second print head** control means for] counting drops of servicing fluid propelled from said [applicator] ~~another printhead~~ **the first print head** to [help] facilitate controlling the amount of servicing fluid applied to the **a counted number** [inkjet printer] ~~printhead of said inkjet printing mechanism~~ based on the counted number of drops.

C 6. (Twice Amended) The [system] method of claim [4] 5, wherein said [applicator head includes] ~~another printhead~~ **second print head** is a thermal inkjet head [in fluid communication with said source].

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8. (Amended) The system of claim 4, wherein said spring is cantilever-mounted [and positioned to throw treatment ^{fluid} onto said at least one element].

9. (Amended) The system of claim 8, further comprising a transfer wiper for placing servicing fluid from said source onto said spring by wiping contact, said transfer wiper being positioned to elastically bend said spring away from said [at least one] printhead [and wiper element] and then release said spring.

11. (Amended) A [system] method according to claim [10] 16, wherein said [cartridge] ~~applicator~~ ^{second print head} is a refillable cartridge.

12. (Amended) A [system] method according to claim [10] 11, wherein said ~~applicator~~ ^{second print head} [head] is a thermal fluid jetting printhead.

13. (Amended) A [system] method according to claim [10] 11, wherein said ~~applicator~~ ^{second print head} [head] is a piezo-electric fluid jetting printhead.

14. A method of servicing a portion of printhead of an inkjet printer comprising the steps of:

providing a wiper mounted for movement with respect to the printhead in wiping contact therewith to remove unwanted accumulation from a portion of the printhead;

providing a source of printhead servicing fluid;

providing another inkjet printhead as a non-contact servicing fluid applicator and orienting said applicator to jet servicing fluid in a reproducible quantity onto a surface of the printhead of said inkjet printer and the wiper;

transporting servicing fluid from said source to said applicator;

jetting servicing fluid from said applicator through atmosphere onto the printhead of said inkjet printer and the wiper; and

wiping the printhead of the inkjet printer by moving the wiper with respect to the printhead to remove unwanted accumulation therefrom; and

further comprising the steps of:

vaporizing said servicing fluid to jet ejectingly said fluid from said applicator printhead;

and

said servicing fluid being projected from said applicator printhead onto the printhead and said wiper.

15. (New) A method of servicing a first inkjet printhead comprising:

using a second printhead to project a reproducible quantity of servicing fluid through atmosphere onto said first printhead; and

wiping said first printhead to remove unwanted accumulation.

16. (New) The method of claim 15, comprising thermally projecting said servicing fluid.

17. (New) The method of claim 15, comprising piezo-electrically projecting said servicing fluid.

18. (New) A system for servicing a printer having a carriage mounted inkjet printhead on a reciprocally movable carriage and a wiper positioned to wipe the carriage mounted printhead to remove unwanted accumulations from the printhead, a source of

printhead servicing fluid, a non-contact service fluid applicator in fluid communication with said source, said non-contact applicator comprising a second inkjet printhead oriented to eject servicing fluid in a reproducible quantity onto a surface of said carriage mounted printhead.

19. (New) A method of servicing a portion of a scanning printhead of an inkjet printer which includes a printhead wiper comprising:

projecting a reproducible quantity of servicing fluid from an applicator pump through atmosphere onto at least one of said printhead and said wiper; and

wiping said printhead by moving said wiper with respect to said printhead to remove unwanted accumulations from said printhead.

20. (New) The method of claim 19, further comprising maintaining a source of servicing fluid in an uncontaminated state by preventing contact of said applicator with said printhead and said wiper.

21. (New) A system for servicing a portion of a printhead of an inkjet printer having a printhead reciprocally moved by a carriage and a wiper positioned and adapted to move with respect to the printhead in wiping contact therewith to remove unwanted accumulations from a portion of the printhead, comprising:

a source of printhead servicing fluid;

a servicing fluid applicator comprising a pump having an outlet for projecting a reproducible quantity of servicing fluid through atmosphere onto at least one of said printhead and said wiper; and

means for transferring servicing fluid from said source of servicing fluid to said